



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 60267  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Operations Division  
Eastern Evaluation Section  
Project Manager  
Beatriz Pérez  
(504) 862-2259

SUBJECT: EDD 20-040-1358

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received by the District engineer for a Department of the Army permit to authorize the following pursuant to (X) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or ( ) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

**FIBER OPTIC CABLE IN GULF OF MEXICO**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Gulf Fiber, LLC, c/o Marine Resources, Inc., 7897 SW Jack James Drive, Suite A, Stuart, FL 34997.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Approximately 38 nautical miles southeast of Grand Isle, Louisiana, in the Gulf of Mexico. See attached for OCS blocks affected.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** Placement of a portion of the BP Deepwater Loop, part of the FiberWeb™ fiber optic cable network, to service the offshore oil and gas industry and the US government. (Other portions of the network are already in place and/or have been permitted.) The 1.5-inch cable will be placed directly on the water bottom, and will be connected to several platforms and branching units owned by British Petroleum. The cable will cross the Southwest Pass Safety Fairway in approximately 215 feet of water.

The comment period will close **30 days** from the date of this public notice advertisement. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons therefor, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit request. Letters must reference the applicant's name and the subject number, be addressed and mailed to the above address, ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

No properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical sites or data. A shipwreck has been identified over 9 miles to the northwest of the proposed route. Mississippi Canyon Blocks 287 and 288 have been identified as having a high potential for historic shipwrecks, but the proposed cable will be routed to provide a 1,000-meter buffer zone around any other shipwrecks identified in the pre-lay survey of the water bottom. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Interior nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnus-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of N/A of an acre of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Pete J. Serio  
Chief, Eastern Evaluation Section

Enclosures

**Block No. 16 Other Location Descriptions****Project Activity:** Installation of BP Deepwater Loop to the FiberWeb™ network.**Location:** Gulf of Mexico**County:** Plaquemines Parish**State:** LA**Applicant:** Gulf Fiber L.L.C.

The fiber optic cable will cross the following Minerals Management Service (MMS) Blocks within the jurisdiction of the New Orleans District USACE:

**Mississippi Canyon-**268, 312, 313

**West Delta-** 152, 153, 154

**Mississippi Canyon-**360, 404, 405, 406, 407, 451, 452, 453, 409, 410, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 327, 328, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 244, 200, 201, 157, 113, 69, 25, 26, 27

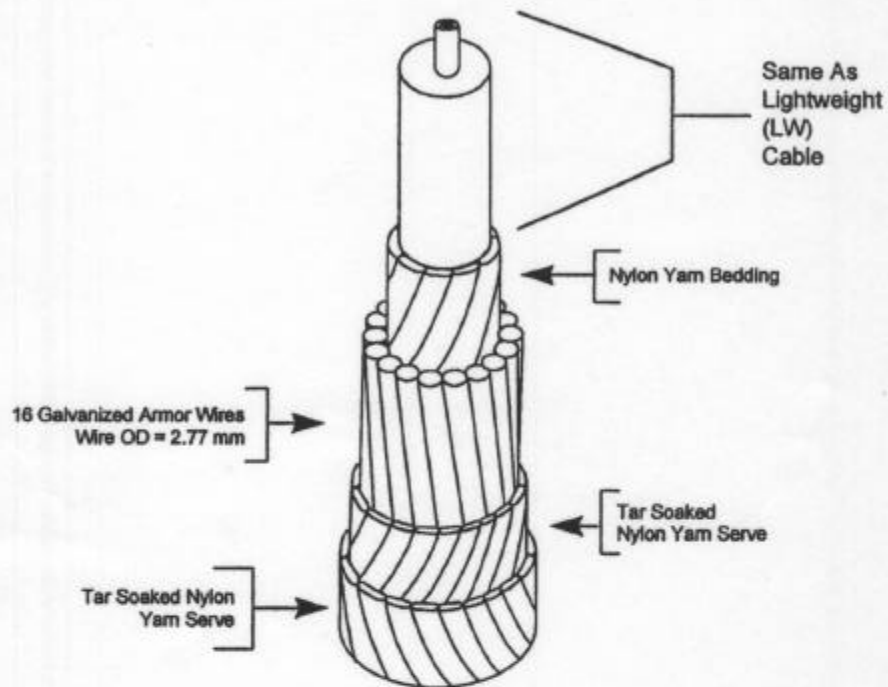
**Viosca Knoll-** 989, 990, 946, 947, 903, 904, 905

**Mississippi Canyon-** 602, 646, 645, 689, 688, 732, 776, 775, 820, 864, 863, 907, 951, 950, 949, 993, 992

**Atwater-** 24, 23, 67, 66, 110, 109, 153, 152, 151, 195, 194, 238, 237, 281, 280, 324, 323, 322, 366, 365, 409, 408, 407, 451, 450, 494, 493, 492, 536, 535, 579, 578, 622, 621, 620, 664, 663, 707, 706, 705

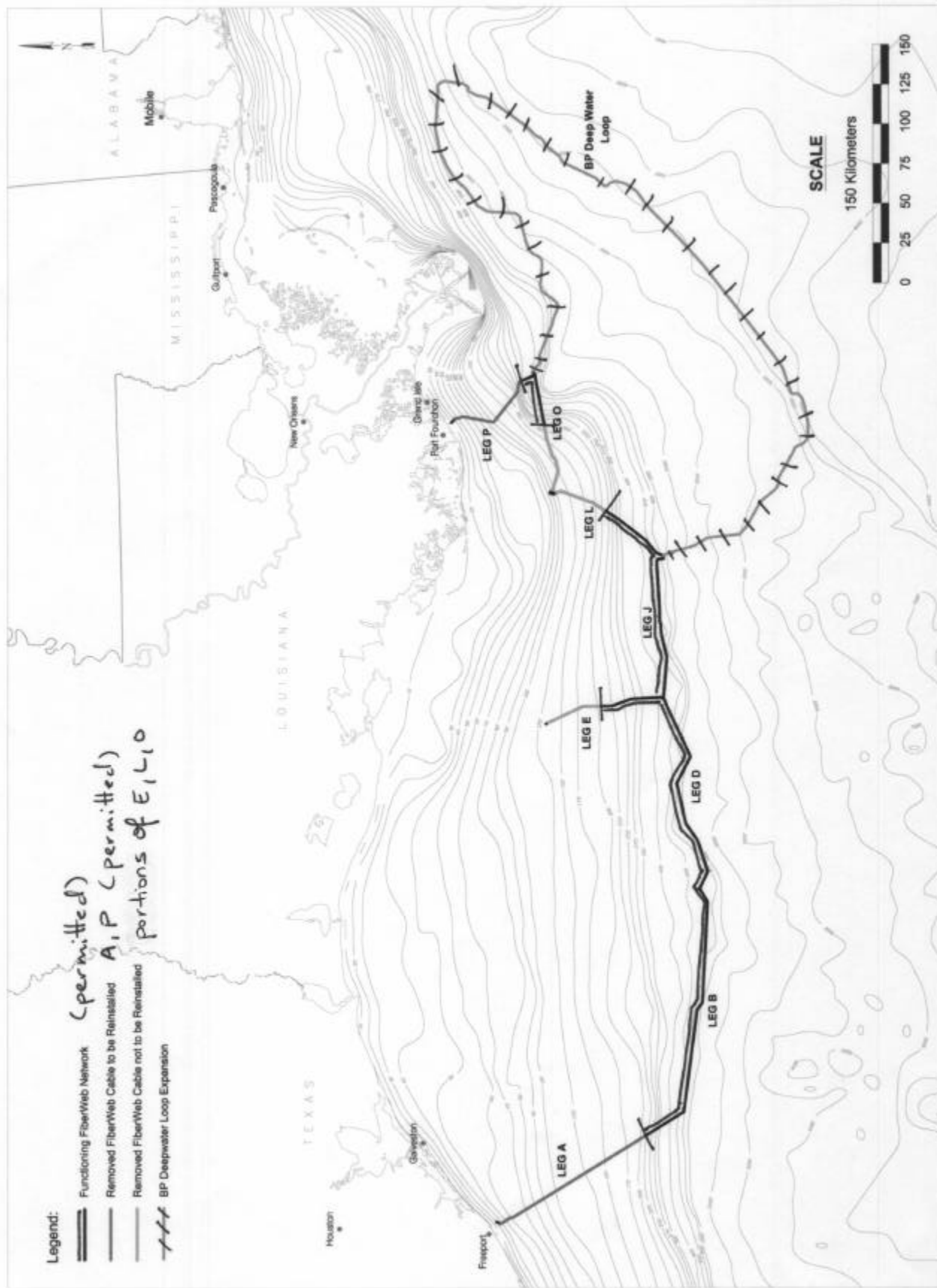
**Green Canyon-**746, 745, 744, 788, 832, 831, 830, 829, 873, 872, 871, 870, 826, 825, 781, 780, 736, 735, 734, 690, 689, 688, 644, 643, 599, 598, 554, 553, 552, 508, 507, 506, 462, 418, 374, 373, 329, 285, 241, 197, 196, 152, 108, 64, 63, 19

## SL101 Single-Armored Cable (SA) Cable

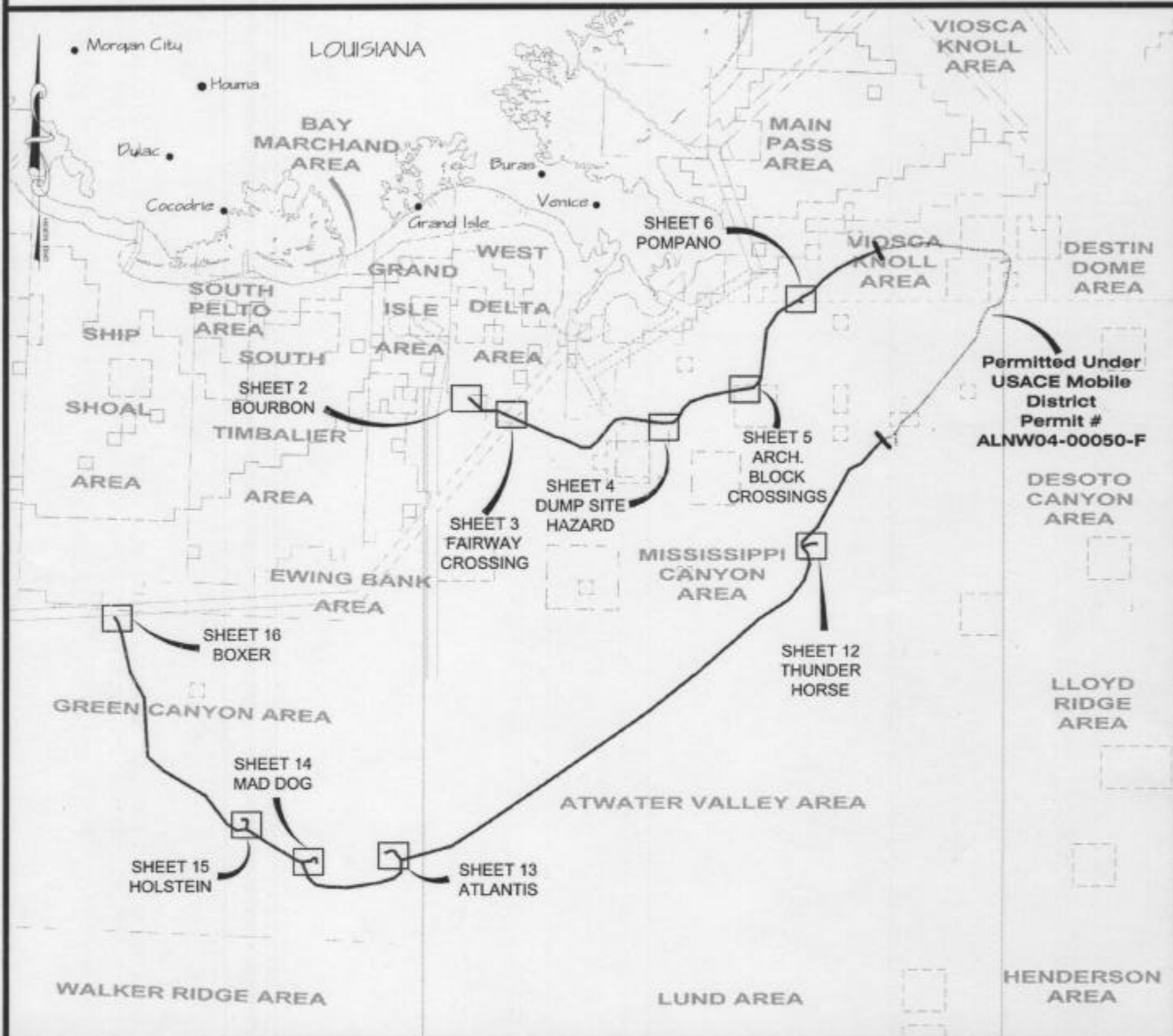


SL101SA Cable Parameter	Details
Nominal Permanent Tensile Strength	47 kN
Nominal Operating Tensile Strength	84 kN
Nominal Transient Tensile Strength	118 kN
Fiber and Cable Breaking Load (UTS)	182 kN
Weight in Air	1.29 kg/m
Weight in Water	0.92 kg/m
Outer Diameter	22.78 mm
Minimum Bending Radius	1.5 m
Stowage Factor	.55 m <sup>3</sup> /km
Hydrodynamic Constant	70 degree-knots
Cable Modulus (minimum)	20 km

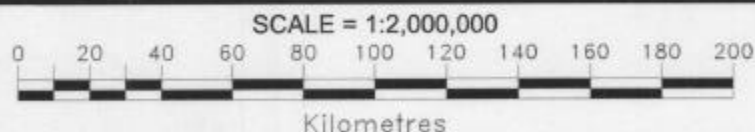




Area overview of the existing FiberWeb fiber optic cable network and the BP Deepwater Loop extension.



Permitted Under  
USACE Mobile  
District  
Permit #  
ALNW04-00050-F



DATE: 12/03/2003 TIME: 13:20 FILENAME: J:\4310\PERMITS\PRMCOV4310.DWG

GEODETIC DATUM: WGS84  
ELLIPSOID: WGS84  
GRID UNITS: METERS  
PROJECTION: UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
ZONE: 16 NORTH  
CENTRAL MERIDIAN: 87° W  
FALSE EASTING: 500,000.0 METERS at C.M.  
FALSE NORTHING: 0.0 METERS at 00° N



PROPOSED BP DEEP WATER LOOP CABLE  
Block 268, Mississippi Canyon Area  
to  
Block 19, Green Canyon, Area

PREPARED  
BY:



**C&C Technologies**  
SURVEY SERVICES

JOB No: 4310

FILENAME: PRM4310.DWG

REVISED:

DATE: 12/03/2003

SHEET 1 of 16